

PRESS RELEASE

October 28, 1988

"MUSCLEMAN" FILM SERIES BEGINS AT CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Muscular heroes of the ancient world will be featured in a free, six-part film series at The Cleveland Museum of Art, Sundays at 3:30 pm November 6 through December 18 (except November 27). The "Men of Bronze" series features Kirk Douglas as the mythological Ulysses, Steve Reeves as the legendary Hercules, and Ramon Novarro as the mortal Ben-Hur, to name a few. The films, which celebrate the human physique and provide tons of fun, are presented in conjunction with a special exhibition of ancient bronze statuettes, **The Gods Delight**. (See listing on page 2.)

A special screening of the 1914 silent Italian opus Cabiria--the first film ever to cost more than a million dollars--begins this epic series. Cabiria, the tale of a slave girl and her protector during the Second Punic War, is considered the first "muscleman" movie, and its mammoth slave-hero Maciste became the lead character in a cycle of adventure films of the 1950s and 60s. Dr. Charles Affron of New York University will introduce his complete, uncut print of Cabiria, and will translate the film's original Italian intertitles, penned by Gabriele D'Annunzio. Pianist Jenna Jones will accompany the silent film with musical themes from the original score by Ildebrando Pizzetti. The Museum's free presentation of Cabiria is made possible by a gift from Orlando Baking Company.

The "Men of Bronze" series also includes a rare 35mm cinemascope studio print of The 300 Spartans, a new 35mm color print of Jason and the Argonauts, and the first Ohio showing of a fully-restored 35mm print of the silent Ben-Hur.

(more)

Sunday, November 6

Cabiria (Italy, 1914). Dr. Charles Affron of New York University will introduce Piero Fosco's spectacle of ancient warfare, about a slave and her protector, and will translate the Italian intertitles. Silent with live piano accompaniment by Jenna Jones. B&W, 150 minutes.

Sunday, November 13

Ulysses (Italy, 1955). Mario Camerini's rousing film of Homer's Odyssey, about a hero's return from the Trojan War. With Kirk Douglas and Anthony Quinn. Color, 104 min.

Sunday, November 20

The 300 Spartans (USA, 1962). Rudolph Maté's dramatization of the heroic Greek stand against the Persians at the Battle of Thermopylae. Color, 'scope, 114 min. Print courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox.

Sunday, December 4 Hercules (Italy, 1959). Steve Reeves as the legendary strongman who surmounts a variety of challenges in Pietro Francisci's muscleman epic. In English. Color, 107 min.

Sunday, December 11

Jason and the Argonauts (Great Britain, 1963). A mythic Greek warrior searches for the legendary Golden Fleece. Direction by Don Chaffey, special effects by Ray Harryhausen, music by Bernard Herrmann. Color, 104 min.

Sunday, December 18

Ben-Hur (USA, 1926). Epic tale of a Jew imprisoned by the Romans at the time of Christ. Fred Niblo directs Ramon Novarro and Francis X. Bushman in this newly-restored silent version. Tinted and toned B&W/color, 128 min. 35mm library print shown courtesy of Turner Entertainment Company.

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For more information or black-and-white film stills, please contact Public Information,
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